

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of allowing a customer to place a wager on gaming action with a merchant through an electronic transaction, the method comprising the steps:

- a) establishing a deposit account for the customer with an escrow account provider;
- b) placing the wager for the gaming action with the merchant;
- c) ~~determining the type of wager;~~
- d c) transferring funds for the wager from the deposit account to a prescribed account ~~depending on the type of wager;~~
- e d) notifying the merchant that the funds for the wager have been transferred;
- e) querying the prescribed account for availability of merchant funds therein;
- f) verifying the merchant can cover the wager based upon the amount of available merchant ~~with~~ funds in the prescribed account being a predefined ratio to the wager amount;
- g) transferring the funds for the wager from the prescribed account to an action account during pendency of the gaming action; and
- h) transferring funds for the wager from the action account to one of the merchant and the customer.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the completion of the gaming action will result in one of a win and a loss, and step (h) comprises transferring funds to the customer for a win and transferring funds to the merchant for a loss.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein step (f) further comprises suspending play if the merchant does not have sufficient funds to cover the wager.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 3 wherein step (f) further comprises resuming play when the merchant has funds to cover the wager.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)
8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein:  
the prescribed account is a gaming post-up account; and  
the wager type determined in step (c) is a sports book.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 8 wherein step (d) further  
comprises transferring funds to the gaming post-up account.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein:  
the prescribed account is a casino cage; and  
the wager type determined in step (c) is a casino.
11. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 10 wherein step (d) further  
comprises transferring funds to the casino cage.